

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended). A ~~cab arrangement for a~~ harvesting combine comprising:

~~a harvesting combine including a~~ body including a housing having a front wall, and a rotary threshing assembly including a rotor having a front end located in front of the front wall, a cab in front of and spaced-apart from the body front wall, and a platform positioned in the space between the cab and the body wherein the cab, the body, and the platform define a passageway to allow an operator to visually monitor and access the body from the platform, the passageway and the platform extending over the front end of the rotor.

Claim 2 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cab ~~includes a back wall, the back wall including a transparent window to provide the operator with enhanced visibility behind the cab~~ is supported on the combine by a linkage assembly movable for moving the cab upwardly and rearwardly into the space and adjacent to the front wall.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the platform ~~includes a first side portion, a second side portion, and a back portion, the back portion positioned between the cab and the body~~ is removable to allow the cab to be positioned in the passageway above the front end of the rotor.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the ~~back portion~~ has a width of approximately 18-20 inches platform is connected to at least one side platform portion located beside the cab, the platform between the cab and the body being located at a higher elevation than the at least one side platform portion.

Claim 5 (original). The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the passageway has a width of approximately 18-20 inches.

Claim 6 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim ~~2~~ 4 wherein the ~~transparent window is comprised of glass~~ platform is supported on a bridge which has a generally inverted U-shape which extends over and defines a space containing the front end of the rotor.

Claim 7 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim ~~4~~ 6 wherein the ~~platform extends substantially around a back wall and first and second side walls of the cab~~ bridge supports at least one step at an elevation between the platform and the at least one side platform portion.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim 7 ~~wherein the first side wall of the cab includes a first transparent panel and the second side wall of the cab includes a second transparent panel~~ comprising two of the side platform portions beside opposite sides of the cab, respectively, the side platform portions and the platform together having a U-shape when viewed from above.

Claim 9 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the ~~first and second transparent panels are comprised of glass~~ cab includes a back wall, the back wall including a transparent window to provide the operator with enhanced visibility behind the cab.

Claim 10 (original). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the platform includes a railing extending upward from the platform and along an outer perimeter of the platform.

Claim 11 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the combine includes a frame, the platform being attached to the frame.

Claim 12 (original). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the platform is positioned above two front wheels of the combine.

Claim 13 (original). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cab includes a curved transparent front panel.

Claim 14 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim ~~14~~ 13 wherein the curved transparent front panel is comprised of glass.

Claim 15 (original). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the body includes a housing and operating equipment.

Claim 16 (currently amended). The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the operating equipment includes a loop elevator assembly, and a grain tank, ~~a rotary threshing assembly including a rotor, and a cleaning system including a chaffer sieve and a shoe sieve.~~

Claim 17 (currently amended). A method for visually monitoring a harvesting combine comprising:

providing a harvesting combine including a body, the body including a housing and operating equipment including at least a grain tank, a cab spaced-apart from and in front of the body, a platform including at least one side platform portion positioned beside the cab, and an elevated back platform portion connected to the side platform portion and positioned between the cab and the body at an elevation higher than the side

platform portion, wherein the cab, the body, and the elevated back platform portion define a passageway; and

visually monitoring the operating equipment from the elevated back platform portion.

Claim 18 (currently amended). A method for visually monitoring a harvesting combine comprising:

providing a harvesting combine including a body, the body including a housing and operating equipment including a grain tank, a cab spaced-apart from and forwardly of the body, a platform including at least one side platform portion positioned beside the cab, and an elevated back platform portion connected to the side platform portion and positioned between the cab and the body wherein the cab, the body, and the elevated back platform portion define a passageway; and

accessing the ~~operator~~ operating equipment from the elevated back platform portion.

Claim 19 (original). The method of claim 18 wherein the cab includes a back wall, the back wall including a transparent window; and

visually monitoring the operating equipment from the cab.

Claim 20 (original). The method of claim 19 wherein the transparent window is comprised of glass.

Claim 21 (currently amended). A cab arrangement for a harvesting combine comprising:

a harvesting combine including a body having a grain tank, a cab spaced-apart from the grain tank, a platform including side platform portions beside opposite sides of the cab, and a back platform portion at a higher elevation than the side platform portions

positioned between the cab and the grain tank, wherein the back platform portion defines a space therebeneath containing a front end of a rotor of a threshing system of the combine extending forwardly of the body of the combine, and wherein the cab, the grain tank, and the back platform portion define a passageway to allow an operator to visually monitor operating equipment from the higher elevation.